



SILSDEN

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1925.

Area, 7,101 acres; Rateable Value (1925), £23,987; Inhabited Houses (1871), 596; (1881), 752; (1891), 841; (1901), 983; (1911), 1,176; (1921), 1,227. Population enumerated (1871), 2,714; (1881), 3,329; (1891), 3,866; (1901), 4,304; (1911), 4,961; (1921 Census), 4,880. Corrected Estimate by Registrar General 1925=4770. Number of separate Occupiers (1921) = 1,273. Sum represented by a penny Rate = £79.

Locality.—The Silsden Urban District is co-terminous with the township of Silsden. It is situated in the Registration Sub-District of Kildwick, in the Union of Skipton. Besides the town of Silsden it contains the hamlet of Brunthwaite and Silsden Moor. The district is bounded on the W. by the townships of Kildwick, Bradley, and Skipton; on the N. by Draughton; N.E. by Addingham; E. by Ilkley and Morton; and S. by Steeton, from which it is separated by the River Aire. The Leeds and Liverpool Canal passes through the district. Silsden Beck runs through the town.

Area.—The area of the township is 7,101 acres; there is also a water area of 31 acres.

Elevation.—Most of the inhabited houses of the town of Silsden may be said to lie between Throstle Nest and Townhead, where the elevation is 430 feet and 480 feet, and Silsden Bridge, where the elevation is 300' above the ordnance datum. Silsden Moor, which is situated at the N.W. of the township, is all on high ground, some of the highest points being Long Ridge End, 1,250 feet; Bucking Hill, 1,200 feet; Windgate Nick, 1,250 feet; Pinfold Hill, 950 feet; Gill Grange, 883 feet; Silsden Reservoir, 560 feet; and the hamlet of Brunthwaite, 500 feet above the ordnance datum. The township is situate on the Mill-

stone Grit, which here consists of the series known as the "third grits," amongst which thin seams of inferior coal are found, and these have formerly been worked.

Rainfall.—The following records are taken by the Bradford Corporation :

Station.	Year 1925.	Average.	No. of Years.
Gill Grange, ...	34·33	31·60	44
Silsden Reservoir	38·09	30·85	50
Cringles ...	39·58	32·22	48

Industries and Occupations.—There are now three Woollen Spinning and four Weaving Mills and four Weaving Sheds in Silsden, and one Dye Works, and a Printing Works, which will employ altogether about 1,414 hands. There is also a Tannery where eight are employed. The chief occupation used to be nailmaking, which is carried on in small sheds, but there are now of these only three. A number of workers (about 93) are employed across the valley at Steeton Bobbin Works in the Keighley Rural District, and a number of mechanics (200) work in Keighley. The inhabitants of Brunthwaite and Silsden Moor are engaged in agriculture on grazing farms.

Change of Officer.—Mr. Wade obtained the appointment of Surveyor to the Council on August 1st last, and was succeeded by Mr. Douglas E. Robinson, of Keighley, as Sanitary Inspector. He commenced duties on August 5th, 1925. Mr. Robinson was formerly under Mr. Thomas Burton, the Keighley Rural Inspector, and is a Certificated Sanitary and Meat Inspector.

Sanitary Condition and Progress.—Water Supply.—The town possesses a supply of water conveyed by gravitation from the Council's own reservoirs. These are of small capacity, but should necessity arise, water can be drawn from the works of the Bradford Corporation. In consequence of the increased building in the limit of the supply, it was found necessary to replace the existing mains by pipes of a larger calibre. Subsequent to the Local Government Board Inquiry held in December, 1907, sanction was received to the borrowing of the sums of £3,000 for the purpose of water supply and £1,022 for fire station and engine, &c., in January and March, 1908. The work in connection with the filtration scheme was completed in 1910.

An extension was laid in 1920 in connection with the Council's new houses, consisting of 114 yards of 4-inch mains.

In 1921 and 1922, extensions of water main were laid for the new houses, consisting of 100 yards of 3-inch pipes in each case.

In 1924, a short extension of water main was laid to new property—3 houses, and application was made in April to the Ministry for sanction to borrow £1,040 for replacement of water mains in Kirkgate and Keighley Road (of 6'' to 8'', 4'' to 6'', 3'' to 6'', and 2''). This was granted without Inquiry on May 14th.

In 1925, an extension of about 340 yards of 3'' water main was laid to new property in the Skipton Road area. This will eventually supply 30 houses.

The work of re-placing water mains in Kirkgate is progressing satisfactorily, and will be completed early in 1926.

The water supply was ample throughout the year, and the turning on of the Bradford supply was not required.

Sewerage and Drainage.—The town of Silsden possesses a proper system of sewerage and sewage disposal. This was provided in 1896 and 1897, and the private drainage and drain connections were carried out in 1898 and 1899. Further work was done in laying out the Sewage Farm in 1900 and 1901. In 1905, on the Sewage Farm, an acre and a quarter of additional land was levelled for the treatment of sewage. The Council, on the recommendation of the Sewage Committee, consulted their Engineers, Messrs. Chas. Gott & Sons, Bradford, who suggested certain alterations and extensions of sewage disposal plant. A Local Government Board Inquiry was held on April 22nd, 1909, by M. K. North, Esq., M. Inst. C.E., into an application for sanction to borrow £1,268 for the further works of sewage disposal. Sanction was received on May 24th, and the works were commenced in October. The contract was let to Mr. W. Brigg, of Bradford. The proposed works, consisting of a detritus tank, three additional precipitation tanks, three new sludge-drying beds, new concrete carriers and distributors, engine and pumping plant to raise the sludge, and the laying-out of all available land, except about half an acre, for sewage treatment, were commenced in October, 1909, and since completed. A Local Government Board Inquiry was held on June 25th, 1913, by R. G. Hetherington, Esq., A.M.I.C.E., into an application for sanction to borrow £550, subsequently increased to £593, for the provision of a 90 × 36 feet percolating filter and humus tank for treating the night flow in connection with the Sewage Works. The additional work suggested by the Local Government Board, after the Inquiry, consisting of a percolated filter, humus tank, etc., was carried out, and additional sub-soil drains were laid in half an acre not previously dealt with. The dosing syphons in connection with the percolating filter were overhauled in October, 1920. The main sewer was extended in the Skipton Road district for the Council's new houses (12 houses) in 1920.

In 1921, an extension of main sewer was laid for new property, consisting of 115 yards of 6'', 77 ynrds of 4'', and 3 manholes.

In 1922, a short extension of new main was laid for the new property, 100 yards of pipe with 1 manhole and 2 lampholes.

In 1923, another short extension was laid in Skipton Road for new property, with 1 manhole.

In 1924, the sewer was extended some 170 yards to new property in Skipton Road area, with 3 manholes, and surface water drains also laid for the same purpose.

In 1925, about 130 yards of 6" sewer have been laid to new property in Clifford Street and the Skipton Road area (with 4 manholes), along with a corresponding length of surface water drains.

Scavenging.—The scavenging has been carried out by the Council's staff, their own horse and scavenging carts being used. The work has been effected in the day time and has been satisfactorily done. There are no pail closets remaining in the town, and the scavenging is limited to dry ashpits which are regularly emptied, the whole of the ashpits being emptied in three weeks, and the contents are conveyed to the Council's tipping ground in Bradley Road. The whole of the closets in the town are either cistern flushed or slop-water closets. Cistern flushed w.c.'s are required to be provided in case of all new property, and the substitution of Ash Bins for ashpits is suggested. These are emptied fortnightly. The extension of the Public Tip in Bradley Road has been in use, and will shortly require further extension, and is receiving attention.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION (SILSDEN).

The following Table shows the Closet Accommodation in the whole District at the end of 1925 :—

No. of Pail Tub Closets	...	...	...	...	14
No. of Privies with Covered Middens	...	...	...	...	69
No. of Middens with Open Middens	...	...	...	...	6
No. of Fresh Water Closets (cisterns)	...	...	...	...	569
No. of Waste Water Closets	...	...	...	...	692

The following shows the number of conversions from one type of Sanitary convenience to another during each of the five years 1921 to 1925 :—

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Privies fixed to movable receptacles	—	—	2	—	—
„ with fixed receptacles to Fresh Water Closets	1	—	—	—	—
„ with fixed receptacles to Waste Water Closets	—	—	—	—	—
„ movable receptacles to Fresh Water Closets	1	—	—	—	—
„ movable receptacles to Waste Water Closets	—	2	—	—	—
Waste Water Closets to Fresh Water Closets	—	—	—	—	4

Inspection of District.—This district has been subject to routine inspection throughout the past year, and necessary steps taken for abatement of insanitary conditions when found.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT OF THE SANITARY WORK, &c., completed in the year ending
December 31st, 1925 :—

No. of Complaints received during the year	...	...	...	...	6
No. of Houses built during the year (by private enterprise), including 1 Wooden Bungalow	...	...	...	...	22
No. of Houses, Premises, &c., inspected	...	...	...	...	558
No. of Houses under Housing and Town Planning Act	...	...	...	...	25
House Drains Repaired, Cleansed, &c....	...	...	...	...	53
House Drains Trapped and Ventilated	...	...	...	...	21
Waste Pipes Trapped	...	...	...	...	85
Privies and Water Closets Repaired, Cleansed, &c....	...	...	...	...	34
Water Closets provided	...	...	...	...	29
Slop ditto	...	...	...	...	—
Privies abolished	...	...	...	...	—
Water Supply, Houses provided with	...	...	...	...	21
Ashpits, new, provided with Sanitary Bins	...	...	...	...	21
Ashpits repaired, covered, &c.	...	...	...	...	10
No. of Ashpits ordered to be emptied	...	...	...	...	18
Removals of accumulation of dung, stagnant water, Animal and other refuse	...	...	...	...	11
Eaves Troughs provided	...	...	...	...	1
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	27
Filthy Houses ordered to be cleansed	...	...	...	...	1
Smoke Records taken	...	...	...	...	7
Offensive Trades complained of	...	...	...	...	—
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease	...	(including Tuberculosis)	...	...	11
Slaughter Houses inspections made	...	...	(400 visits)	...	5
Seizure of Unsound Meat (surrendered)	...	...	...	...	2
Bakehouses (inspections made)	...	...	...	(14 visits)	7
Dairies and Cowsheds inspected	...	...	...	(88 visits)	43
Canal Boats inspected	...	...	...	...	11
Premises examined under "Factory and Workshops Act"	...	...	(104 visits)	...	52
Prosecutions taken	...	ditto	...	...	—
Plans approved	...	...	...	...	35
Plans disapproved	...	...	...	...	—
Statutory Notices issued	...	...	...	...	—
Preliminary Notices given	...	...	...	...	110

DOUGLAS E. ROBINSON,

*Certificated Sanitary Inspector,
and Meat Inspector.*

Note.—The overcrowding referred to consists largely of more than the members of one family occupying the house, and this owing to the shortage of houses is impossible to reduce, until further accommodation is provided.

Bye-laws and Regulations.—The Council possesses bye-laws with respect to “Slaughter-houses” and “Common Lodging Houses,” which were allowed in 1884, and with respect to “New Streets and Buildings,” allowed in 1885. They are with a few modifications, closely assimilated to the “Model Bye-laws” of the Local Government Board. A series of regulations under the “Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order, 1886,” was adopted in 1892. The Council also drew up a series of Regulations as to private drainage connections in 1896. The Council adopted the Model Regulations as to Dairies, Cowshed, and Milkshops at their meeting on January 7th, 1907, and the Dairies and Cowsheds in the District were then re-registered.

The revision of the building byelaws under the Intermediate Series was under consideration last year, and these were allowed by the Ministry on May 13th, 1924.

Acts of Parliament Adopted.—The “Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889,” was adopted in 1893, and came into operation on January 27th, 1894. Part III. of the “Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890,” was adopted in April, 1894. The Council passed a resolution at their meeting on November 7th, 1899, adopting the “Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890,” but this has not been gone forward with. The Council has adopted portions of the “Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1907.” An order was issued on November 17th, 1911, embracing Sections 15 and 33 inclusive in Part II. with the exception of Section 26, Sections 34 to 50 inclusive in Part III., Sections 52 and 67 inclusive, excepting Section 61 in Part IV., also Part V. and Part X. This Order came into operation on January 5th, 1912. Part IV. of the “Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890,” with respect to Music and Dancing Licences, was adopted in 1912.

Slaughter Houses, &c.—There are now 5 Slaughter Houses, 3 of which are registered, and 2 licensed, and these have been inspected weekly and are cleanly kept.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

	In 1920.	In January, 1925.	In December, 1925.
Registered	4	4	3
Licensed	—	1	2
Total	4	5	5

No *Unsound Meat* has to my knowledge been offered for sale.

The following were surrendered, viz. :—1 beast's carcass, and all organs, for Tuberculosis, and the forequarters of another and organs.

1 new Slaughter House has been licensed during the year, and 1 Registered Slaughter House has not been in use.

There is no Common Lodging House in the district. There are 7 Bakehouses, and these are inspected and well kept. There are only 2 examples of *Noxious Trade*, viz., a Tannery and 1 Tripe Boiler. Both have been under inspection, and there has been no complaint.

Legal Proceedings have not been necessary.

Dairies and Cowsheds.—There are 39 Cowkeepers in the district (9 of whom are retailers), and 4 retailers who are not producers. The premises have all been inspected for the purpose of re-registration and reported to the Council in November, 1925. Much improvement is in some cases required, and preliminary notices will shortly be issued. The delay has been due to the change of Inspector.

7 *Smoke Observations* were made of the Factory Chimneys, and found satisfactory.

11 *Canal Boats* were examined by the Inspector, but no action was necessary.

Report under the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, for the year 1925.

Fifty-two Workshops have been examined.

A Register, a Record Book, and a Fire Escape Book are kept, in which details are entered up as to sanitation, air-space, ventilation, drainage of floors, cleanliness, etc.

The “Public Health Acts (Amendment Act), 1890,” is in force in this District.

The following Table shows the kind of work followed on the premises examined :—

WORKSHOPS.	
Occupation.	Number.
Confectioners	7
Nailmakers	3
Wheelwrights	2
Cabinet Maker	1
Blacksmiths	2
Tailors	3
Shoe Makers	8
Clog Iron Makers	3
Plumbers	5
Tinner	1
Bakehouses	7
Underground Bakehouse ..	—
Dressmakers	2
Watchmakers	1
Milliners	4
Stocking-knitting	1
Joiner	1
Tripe Boiler	1
Total ...	52

Lime-washing was carried out when necessary.

The general sanitary condition of the Workshops was found to be satisfactory

There was no *Overcrowding* found.

One notice of *New Workshop* was received from the Factory Inspector.

There are no *Outworkers* in the district.

Street Improvements, &c.—No further improvements have been able to be carried out since the War. The scheme referred to in my previous reports for the widening of Howden Road was sanctioned, and was completed last year by the pulling down of two old cottages on the North side of the road. Plans have been prepared for an improvement to the approaches to, and the widening of Clog Bridge to be carried out in the future. The main approach road (Keighley Road) was widened and straightened by the County Council in 1923, and is a great improvement and less dangerous for the traffic, which is considerable.

Public Mortuary.—Arrangements were carried out in 1905 for the conversion of an existing building on the Keighley Road to serve for the purpose of a public mortuary.

Medical Inspection of School Children.—The West Riding County Council in September, 1908, appointed ten whole-time officers to undertake this work throughout the Administrative County. Dr. S. Lindsay, S.M.O., has charge of all the schools in this district.

Both schools in Silsden, the Aire View School and the Hothfield Street School, are supplied with the public water supply and provided with automatically flushed w.c.'s.

It was found necessary to close the Aire View School for *Measles* in February, and the Hothfield Street School for *Influenza* in March.

Cemetery for Silsden.—Owing to the filling up of the existing burial grounds in the district it was necessary for further burial accommodation to be provided, and the Council contemplated providing a Cemetery under the "Public Health (Interments) Act, 1879," and I inspected 2 suggested sites for the purpose last year. Neither of these proved suitable. Since then two sites were inspected near the Gas Works, but one of these was not suitable and the other not obtainable. Two other sites in Howden Road were viewed, and trial holes sunk, but the subsoil was found to be waterlogged. The Spring Bank Estate was for sale, and was purchased with a view to its being offered to the Council if it met with the approval of the Ministry, a portion of the land to be used for cemetery purposes. Eight trial holes having been sunk in various parts of the ground, these were examined and reported upon by Dr. Scatterty in my absence in September, 1924, in the first instance, and subsequently, by myself. The situation was ideal, but the subsoil varied in different parts, rock being found near the surface in some instances. On the whole the condition was as good as could be found anywhere in the district. It was decided to apply to the Ministry for sanction to a loan of £5,100 for the purchase of the estate.

A Public Inquiry was held on April 9th, 1925, under M. K. North, Esq., M. Inst., C.E. The Spring Bank Estate was purchased for a sum of £5,000, and the house thereon and some adjacent land was sold for £2,200. Estimates for the sewerage, draining, and laying out of the site were approved by the Ministry of Health, and a portion of the work will shortly be proceeded with.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.—The total births registered were 65 in number. This total 65 (31 males and 34 females), is an increase of 9 upon last year, and is equivalent to a birth rate of 16·2 per 1,000 as compared with 11·7 last year, 14·2 in 1923, 15·5 in 1922, 15·7 in 1921, 19·5 in 1920, 13·0, in 1919, 10·2 in 1918, 14·2 in 1917, 11·5 in 1916, 15·7 in 1915, 13·7 in 1914, 14·0 in 1913, 18·4 in 1912, 18·5 in 1911, 18·3 in 1910, and 21·5 in 1909. There was one male and one female illegitimate birth.

Deaths.—The total deaths registered in the district were 40 in number, to which had to be added 10 deaths belonging thereto, transferred from other districts, and deducted 4. This gives a corrected total of 46 (25 males and 21 females), and is equivalent to a death-rate of only 9·6 per 1000 living, as compared with 13·1 last year, 16·5 in 1923, 12·8 in 1922, 12·5 in 1921, 12·4 in 1920, 11·8 in 1919, 16·6 in 1918, 11·4 in 1917, 13·7 in 1916, 13·3 in 1915, 9·4 in 1914, 10·9 in 1913, 15·2 in 1912, 14·1 in 1911, and 13·6 in 1910.

Causes of Death in Silsden Urban District, 1925.		Males.	Females.
All causes. Civilians only		25	21
1. Enteric Fever . . . . .	..	..	..
2. Smallpox . . . . .	..	..	..
3. Measles . . . . .	..	..	..
4. Scarlet Fever . . . . .	..	..	..
5. Whooping Cough . . . . .	..	..	..
6. Diphtheria and Croup . . . . .	..	..	..
7. Influenza . . . . .	..	..	..
8. Encephalitis Lethargica . . . . .	..	..	..
9. Meningococcal Meningitis . . . . .	..	..	..
10. Tuberculosis of Respiratory system . . . . .	..	..	3
11. Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	..	..
12. Cancer, malignant disease	4	3	..
13. Rheumatic Fever . . . . .	..	..	..
14. Diabetes	1	..	..
15. Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	1	1	..
16. Heart Disease	4	3	..
17. Arterio-sclerosis	1	2	..
18. Bronchitis . . . . .	..	2	..
19. Pneumonia (all forms)	3	1	..
20. Other Respiratory diseases	2	..	..
21. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	1	..
22. Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years) . . . . .	..	..	..
23. Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1	..	..
24. Cirrhosis of Liver . . . . .	..	..	..
25. Acute and Chronic Nephritis . . . . .	..	..	..
26. Puerperal Sepsis . . . . .	..	..	..
27. Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition . . . . .	..	..	..
28. Congenital Debility, &c. . . . .	..	2	..
29. Suicide . . . . .	..	..	..
30. Other Deaths from Violence . . . . .	..	..	..
31. Other Defined Diseases	5	3	..
32. Causes ill-defined or unknown	1	..	..
Special Causes (included above)			
Poliomyelitis . . . . .		..	..
Polioencephalitis . . . . .		..	..

The age-periods of the deaths are omitted.

On reference to Table II. it will be seen that the birth-rate is higher than it has been in recent years with the exception of 1920 (19·5).

The general death-rate is much the lowest ever recorded, while it is satisfactory to note that 45·6 per cent. of the total deaths were those of persons over 65 years of age.

The Infant deaths were 4 in number, as follows :—Causes assigned.

F. 3 months. Cerebral Meningitis, Convulsions.

M. 3 months. Probably due to a Fit.

F. 11 days. Congenital Pyloric Stenosis.

F. 22 hours. Congenital Heart Disease.

These give an Infant mortality rate of 61·5 as compared with 53·5 last year per 1,000 births.

Among children under 5 years the percentage of deaths to total deaths was 10·8.

There were 2 *Uncertified Deaths*, as follows :

M. 3 months. Probably due to a Fit.

M. 65. Probably Heart Failure.

There was 1 *Inquest* or *Coroner's Certificate*.

The deaths occurred during each Quarter as follows :—

1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Quarter.	Quarter.	Quarter.	Quarter.
13.	11.	5.	11.

TABLE II.

Table showing the annual birth-rates, rates of mortality, death rates among children, and deaths in public institutions, during the past nine years 1917-1925 inclusive, and the mean for the decades 1878-87, 1888-1897, 1898-1907, and 1908-1917.

Year.	Birth-rate per 1000 of the Population.	Annual rate of mortality per 1000 living.	Deaths of Children un- der 1 year ; percentage of total deaths.	Percentage of deaths of Children un- der 1 year to registered births.	Deaths of Children un- der 5 years ; percentage of total deaths.	Total number of deaths in Public Institu- tions.
Mean for Decade 1878-87	32.0	19.5	20.2	12.3	33.8	1.3
Mean for decade 1888-97	29.0	18.0	23.8	14.8	35.9	0.8
Mean for Decade 1898-07	22.9	14.6	14.3	9.1	22.7	4.2
Mean for Decade 1908-17	16.1	12.9	8.1	6.6	12.9	4.7
1917	14.2	11.4	9.6	6.9	15.3	4
1918	10.2	16.6	6.7	9.8	9.4	6
1919	13.0	11.8	7.2	6.3	9.0	6
1920	19.5	12.4	3.3	2.1	8.3	10
1921	15.7	12.5	6.5	5.1	8.1	8
1922	15.5	12.8	4.7	3.9	9.5	12
1923	14.2	16.5	3.7	4.3	6.2	9
1924	11.7	13.1	4.7	5.3	4.7	11
1925	16.2	9.6	8.6	6.1	10.8	10

TABLE IV.

Table showing the Mortality from certain classes of diseases, and proportions to population and to 1,000 deaths, in the years 1923, 1924, and 1925.

	Total Deaths			Deaths per 1000 of Population			Proportion of Deaths to 1000 Deaths		
	1923	1924	1925	1923	1924	1925	1923	1924	1925
1. Seven Principal Zymotic Diseases	—	1	—	—	0·2	—	—	15·8	
2. Pulmonary Diseases (other than } Phthisis)..... }	9	10	8	1·8	2·0	1·6	112·5	158·7	173·9
3. Tuberculous Diseases.....	6	2	4	1·2	0·4	0·8	75·0	31·7	86·9
4. Wasting Diseases of Infants	1	2	2	0·2	0·4	0·4	12·5	31·7	43·4
5. Convulsive Diseases of Infants ...	—	—	2	—	—	0·4	—	—	43·4

ZYMOTIC DISEASE.

Silsden has no zymotic rate this year, as compared with 0·2 per 1,000 living in 1924, and 0 in the previous four years, 1 death in each of the five preceeding years, 3 in 1914, 0 in 1913, 3 in 1912, 1 in 1911, and 4 in 1910.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

These are given in tabular form as suggested.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	* Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	10	10	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	4
Other Diseases generally notifiable }	—	—	—
Other Diseases locally notifiable....	—	—	—

The 10 cases of Scarlet Fever occurred in 8 houses in August and September, and were all removed to the Skipton Joint Hospital (M. 1. F. 9.)

AGE PERIOD OF CASES.

	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 & over	Total.
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	6	4	—	—	—	—	—	10
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Skipton Joint Hospital at Snaygill, Skipton.

TUBERCULOSIS. SILSDEN URBAN.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	—

Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1912.—This Order came into operation on February 1st, 1913. During the year only 1 fresh case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis was notified. Three deaths were returned from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, one not notified, one notified in 1924, which occurred in Morton Banks Sanatorium, and one in the Menston Asylum. This is equivalent to a death-rate from Phthisis of 0·6 per 1,000 living.

National Insurance Act: Provision of Sanatoria, &c.—The West Riding County Council under their Scheme provided Dispensaries at Settle, Skipton, and Keighley, and Dr. E. Allan Wilson, of Keighley, is in charge. Suitable cases are sent through the West Riding Insurance Committee to existing Sanatoria and Hospitals in various parts of the Riding, as well as to their own Sanatorium at Middleton, near Ilkley. Cases unable to attend at the Dispensaries are visited at their own homes.

“Infant Mortality and Notification of Births Act, 1907.”—The County Council adopted the Act for their West Riding area, and organised a combined Nursing Scheme for the Riding to embrace Birth Notification, School Nurses and Health Visitors, in conjunction where possible with existing District Nursing Associations. A whole-time Nurse was appointed for Silsden and certain townships in the Skipton Rural District. An Infant Welfare Centre was started at Silsden ten years ago. Nurse Stoddart is in charge, assisted by a Committee of Ladies, who have given valuable help in needful cases. The babies are regularly weighed, and advice is given in health talks by the Nurse in regard to feeding and clothing, &c. The meetings are held fortnightly in premises over the Fire Station in Kirkgate. 23 meetings were held during the year. The number of mothers on the register is 50. The average attendance of mothers at the Centre was 25-30, and of babies 30-35. The number of visits paid to mothers have been 54 first visits in Silsden, and 19 in Steeton, and 64 in other rural parts, 1,222 re-visits, and 35 pre-natal visits. 15 mothers attend from Steeton at the Silsden Centre. The Medical Classes are held by Dr. Heyneman, of Bradford, who gives talks to the mothers on various subjects. 504 lbs. of Virol were sold at the Centre during the year.

Special visits were made by the Nurse, giving practical advice in cases of Measles 119, Whooping Cough 17, Chicken Pox 84, and Mumps 7. During Baby Week in July a Garden Party was given to Mothers and special prizes were offered and competed for. The services of the Dr. and Nurse are much appreciated.

The Infant Mortality rate for the year was 61·5 per 1,000 births.

Midwives' Act.—The administration of the Midwives' Act is in the hands of the County Council, which is the Local Supervising Authority.

Venereal Disease.—Clinics for venereal cases are held under the County Council twice a week in the evening at the Victoria Hospital, Keighley.

HOUSING.

Fitness of Houses.

- (1) The housing for the working classes in Silsden is insufficient, and there are no empty houses fit for occupation. There are between 70 and 80 houses of the back-to-back type, but chiefly in blocks of four or six. There are no cellar dwellings. All the houses in the inner district have been inspected, and no further houses have been examined during the year, but 25 houses have been re-examined. Of the 15 closing orders previously made, 1 house is empty, and 1 has been remedied and added to another house. The remainder are still occupied owing to shortage of houses.

Overcrowding.—This has previously been referred to.

Unhealthy Areas.—There are no so called unhealthy areas, but there are several houses in St. John's Street which is the oldest part of the town and which have been condemned which do not lend themselves to satisfactory re-construction, and which ought to be demolished, either to make room for better houses or to be cleared as an open space in the centre of the town.

The model bye-laws with respect to "New Streets and Buildings" (Intermediate Series) are in force in the district.

2—UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

(I.)	<i>Inspection.</i>	1925
(1)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	25
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910... ..	25
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation... ..	—
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	—
(II.)	<i>Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.</i>	
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers... ..	—
(III.)	<i>Action under Statutory Powers.</i>	
	A. <i>Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.</i>	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—

- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—
- | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| (a) by owners | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of owners | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close
- | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied...
- | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied—
- | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| (a) by owners | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of owners | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |

Staff engaged on Housing work with, briefly, the duties of each officer Sanitary Inspector	1
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DOUGLAS E. ROBINSON,

TOWN HALL, SILSDEN,

Certificated Sanitary and Housing Inspector.

NOTE.—The above 25 houses were in St. John Street already referred to, and no further action has been taken.

HOUSING SCHEME

The original scheme for 47 houses proposed by the Council was reduced to 24 by the Ministry. Of these 18 were completed and occupied in 1921. Sanction was given in September 1922, for the erection of 6 more scullery houses, and these were completed and occupied in 1923. Sanction to the sale of a portion (2,270 square yards) of the Council's site was given, and four houses (semi-detached parlour) were erected by private enterprise. A second sale was effected of 2,640 square yards to the same builder in July, 1923. The remaining portion of the Council's housing site was sold during the year. 22 houses are now in course of erection upon it (subsidy houses under the 1923 Act).

Of the 10 houses erected and occupied during 1924, 4 were scullery houses in Barrett Street, 2 scullery houses in Tufton Street N. (private enterprise subsidy houses under 1923 Act). 2 semi-detached parlour houses (private) in Elm Grove, and 2 wooden bungalows (temporary structures) in the outer district.

During 1925, 21 subsidized houses were completed and 1 wooden bungalow. 7 additional susidy houses are in course of erection. Thus, from the commencement up-to-date there have been 34 houses erected (5 parlour houses and 29 scullery houses), and the erection of 11 more has been sanctioned.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

The matters requiring the attention of the Council are:—

1. To consider the advisability of the erection of a Public Abattoir, and the dispensing with the existing Slaughter Houses.
2. The paving of back streets.
- 3.—The structural improvement of the Cowsheds.
4. To provide further Housing Accommodation for the Working Classes.
- 5.—The laying out of the Cemetery under the "Public Health (Interments) Act, 1879."

FRANCIS E. ATKINSON, L.R.C.P. (London), M.R.C.S.,
Medical Officer of Health.

To the Silsden Urban District Council,
April, 1926.

SILSDEN

Urban District Council.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

FOR

1925.

Settle, April, 1926.

R. G. DAWSON, PRINTER, SKIPTON.